



Should my child be vaccinated for COVID-19?

Where can I get a COVID-19 vaccine for my child?

The pediatric mRNA vaccine against COVID-19 is available at public health departments, pediatrician offices, and retail pharmacies. The Illinois Public Health Association recommends the directory on [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov) to find nearby vaccine appointments.

Is my consent required before my child can be vaccinated against COVID-19?

In Illinois, anyone under age 18 must have consent from a parent or guardian to receive any vaccine.

Are there any allergies that might prevent my child from being vaccinated against COVID-19?

Yes, but they are extremely rare. If you believe you have had an allergic reaction to an [mRNA vaccine](#) in the past, please consult your primary care physician.

Guidance for the [vaccination of people with allergies](#) is being provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In most cases, people with underlying conditions are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible since the SARS-COV-2 virus can have more severe effects on their overall health.



What are the long-term effects for my child if they receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

After studying the vaccine's data and the effects it has had on teens and adults inoculated, certified physicians and health researchers have yet to find any evidence suggesting detrimental long-term effects. The vaccine is known to cause some short-term effects, such as a sore arm, fatigue, fever, and chills, but these symptoms typically do not last for more than 48 hours.

The C.D.C maintained regular contact with thousands of teens and adults across the United States who had received the COVID-19 vaccine. These conversations were used to approve the original distribution of the pediatric doses.

What effect will this have on my child's fertility?

There is no evidence of any vaccine effecting a person's fertility.

What are the chances my child will contract Myocarditis because of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Contracting [Myocarditis](#) is an extraordinarily rare side effect of the COVID-19 vaccine. Of the [200 million people](#) in the United States who had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine in between June and August 2022, no cases of Mycarditis had been reported to the CDC in age in 6 month to 5 year-year-old age group.





Will this vaccine protect my child from all variants of the SARS-COV-2 virus, such as the Omicron variant?

Bivalent boosters have been altered to fight off the Omicron variant. Although Primary doses do not protect against a specific variant, vaccinated immune systems can still recognize variants to effectively prevent severe infections that would require hospitalization.

How is my child's height or weight factored in to determining their proper vaccine dosage?

Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines are dosed according to the child's age. This shot is one-third of the strength administered to all teens and adults. Pediatric vaccines are only dosed according to the age of the immune system receiving it—not by clinical growth charts.

Should I wait to have them vaccinated until their next birthday?

No. Children are at high-risk for infection since they are often in communal settings. Vaccination helps mitigate the virus's transmission

My child received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine before their 12th birthday. Which dose should they receive now?

The CDC recommends children receive a pediatric vaccine while they are 11 years old and younger. Children should receive an adult dose of the vaccine on or after their 12th birthday.

How does the development of this vaccine compare to other inoculations?

The COVID-19 vaccines were granted an easement of certain regulatory restrictions because they were viewed by health officials across the globe as safe and necessary to protect the public from the harmful effects of the highly transmittable virus. The easements were granted by authorities at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the CDC after reviewing numerous studies, including early clinical trial data, so that the vaccine would be distributed in a timelier manner since hospitalization and mortality rates among unvaccinated people is over 10 times higher than those who have been vaccinated against COVID-19.

What if I still have questions about whether to vaccinate my child against COVID-19?

It is important to make informed decisions about health care. Talking with a physician who understands your child's medical history and pediatric medicine can add value.

There are educational resources available, including a network of Community Health Workers trained to address questions and concerns about the SARS-COV-2 virus and the COVID-19 vaccines. Contact your local public health department or visit helpguidethrive.org

More information on how vaccines are made and reviewed is available from the CDC

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